

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for optimizing customer interactions, comprising:  
interfacing with a plurality of different types of communication channels;  
receiving requests from at least one customer for customer interactions  
over at least two different types of communication channels;  
identifying the at least one customer;  
for each requested customer interaction, choosing at least one treatment  
for processing the customer interaction using a central, channel-  
independent processing engine; and  
processing the customer interactions by the central, channel-independent  
processing engine, based on the treatments chosen,  
wherein the central processing engine processes grouped  
rules in a hierarchy, such that overriding rules have  
priority over interaction rules.
2. (Original) The method from claim 1, wherein choosing the at least one treatment is  
a function of a customer segment, an interaction type and an interaction channel.
3. (Original) The method from claim 1, further comprising:  
inserting data correlating to the at least one treatment into a customer  
intelligence record; and

returning the customer intelligence record to one of the plurality  
communication channels for instructing the channel on the  
treatments to present to the customer.

4. (Original) The method from claim 1, wherein the step of choosing at least one treatment accesses a central repository where treatments have been stored by an independent design tool.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) The method from claim 1, further comprising sending the at least one treatment to one of the plurality of communication channels via a plurality of services.
7. (Previously presented) The method from claim 1, wherein the step of choosing at least one treatment comprises leveraging insight about customers from analytical models to derive at least one treatment.
8. (Previously presented) The method from claim 7, wherein leveraging insight from analytical models comprises:
  - extracting customer data for a plurality of customers from at least one database;
  - training analytical models to predict customer behavior, wherein the analytical models are trained using the customer data extracted from at least one database;
  - gathering the customer interaction results; and
  - retraining the analytic models to refine the customer behavior prediction, wherein the analytical models are re-trained using the customer

data extracted from at least one database as well as the customer interaction results.

9. (Currently amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium for execution by a computer, the computer program comprising:

a code segment for receiving requests from at least one customer for customer interactions over at least two different types of communication channels from a plurality of communication channels;

a code segment for identifying the at least one customer;

a code segment for choosing, for each requested customer interaction, at least one treatment for processing the customer interaction using a central, channel-independent processing engine; and

a code segment for processing the customer interactions by the central, channel-independent processing engine, based on the treatments chosen,

wherein the central processing engine processes grouped rules in a hierarchy such that overriding rules have priority over interaction rules.

10. (Original) The computer program from claim 9, wherein the code segment for choosing the at least one treatment leverages a function of a customer segment, an interaction type and an interaction channel.
11. (Original) The computer program from claim 9, further comprising:

a code segment for inserting data correlating to the at least one treatment  
into a customer intelligence record; and  
a code segment for returning the customer intelligence record to one of  
the plurality communication channels for instructing the channel on  
the treatments to present to the customer.

12. (Original) The computer program from claim 9, wherein the code segment for choosing at least one treatment accesses a central repository where treatments have been stored by an independent design tool.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Original) The computer program from claim 9, further comprising a code segment for sending the at least one treatment to one of the plurality of communication channels via a plurality of services.
15. (Original) The computer program from claim 9, wherein the code segment for choosing at least one treatment comprises a code segment choosing at least one treatment that has been derived from insight about customers using analytical models.
16. (Original) The computer program from claim 15, wherein the code segment for leveraging insight from analytical models comprises:
  - a code segment for extracting customer data for a plurality of customers from at least one database;
  - a code segment for training analytical models to predict customer behavior, wherein the analytical models are trained using the customer data extracted from at least one database;

a code segment for gathering the customer interaction results; and  
a code segment for retraining the analytic models to refine the customer behavior prediction, wherein the analytical models are re-trained using the customer data extracted from at least one database as well as the customer interaction results.

17. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented system for optimizing customer interactions, comprising:

a channel layer for communicating with a plurality of different types of communication channels;  
a services layer for processing requests from at least one customer for customer interactions over at least two different types of communication channels, and for identifying the at least one customer; and  
an interaction optimizing subsystem for choosing, for each requested customer interaction, at least one treatment for processing the customer interactions;  
wherein the interaction optimizing subsystem comprises a central, channel-independent processing engine; and  
wherein the processing for the customer interactions is by the central, channel-independent processing engine, and based on the treatments chosen.

wherein the central processing engine processes grouped  
rules in a hierarchy such that overriding rules have  
priority over interaction rules.

18. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented system from claim 17, wherein the interaction optimizing subsystem chooses the at least one treatment as a function of a customer segment, an interaction type and an interaction channel.
19. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented system from claim 17, further comprising:
  - a customer intelligence record that is used by the interaction optimizing subsystem and is returned to one of the plurality of communication channels for instructing the channel on the treatments to present to the customer;
  - wherein data correlating to the at least one treatment is stored in the customer intelligence record.
20. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented system from claim 17, wherein the interaction optimizing subsystem chooses at least one treatment from a central repository;
  - wherein the treatments have been stored on the central repository by an independent design tool.
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented system from claim 17, wherein the interaction optimizing subsystem comprises a plurality of services for sending the at least one treatment to one of the plurality of communication channels.

23. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented system from claim 17, wherein the interaction optimizing subsystem chooses the at least one treatment that has been derived from insight about customers using analytical models.

24. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented system from claim 23, further comprising:

at least one database upon which is stored customer data for a plurality of customers;

wherein the interaction optimizing subsystem further comprises a results gathering module for gathering customer interaction results;

wherein the gathered customer interaction results are used to re-trained the analytical models.